

Message Text

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ACTION STR-04

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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USMISSION GENEVA

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, MTN, OVIP

SUBJ: VISIT OF STR DENT

1. PREM KUMAR, JOINT SECRETARY, MOC, TOLD ECONCOUNS TODAY THAT TOPICS GOI WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH DENT ARE: (1) TROPICAL PRODUCTS AND THE PROBLEM OF LDC CONTRIBUTIONS; (2) LIST OF PRODUCTS EXCLUDED UNDER MTN AGREEMENT; AND (3) GSP AND THE COMPETITIVE NEED REQUIREMENT.

2. HE THOUGHT A FULL DAY OF TALKS ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO COVER THE TOPICS UNLESS THE US HAD ADDITIONAL SUBJECTS TO DISCUSS.

3. ACCORDINGLY, PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR VISIT WILL BE FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, DAY OF ARRIVAL, OPEN WITH INFORMAL BRIEFING AT ROOSEVELT HOUSE IN LATE AFTERNOON. AMBASSADOR WILL HOST SMALL DINNER IN EVENING. MONDAY TALKS WITH GOI. LUNCH FOR TWO SIDES HOSTED BY ECONCOUNS. KUMAR THOUGHT GOI MIGHT WANT HOST DINNER THAT NIGHT BUT WILL CONFIRM LATER. IF NOT, DINNER AT ROOSEVELT HOUSE BY US SIDE CAN BE ARRANGED. TUESDAY EARLY DEPARTURE.

4. AMBASSADOR DENT WILL STAY AT ROOSEVELT HOUSE, REMAINDER OF PARTY AT CLARIDGES HOTEL. EMBASSY WILL

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ASSIST IN ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE FORMALITIES.

5. IF AMBASSADOR DENT AGREES, AFTER TALKS WITH GOI EMBASSY WOULD LIKE SCHEDULE SHORT MEETING WITH MEMBERS INDO-US CHAMBER AND PRESS IN USIS BUILDING.

6. COMMENT: THE SUBJECT OF GSP HAS BEEN INCLUDED BECAUSE IT IS A TRADE ISSUE, BUT WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT THE MAIN FOCUS IN THESE TALKS WILL BE ON MTN.

7. GOI VIEWS THE SUBJECTS OF TROPICAL PRODUCTS AND LDC CONTRIBUTIONS AS IMPORTANT. GOI OFFICIALS IN MOC WHO AT ONE TIME TALKED OF SOME POSSIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS ONCE THE OVERALL MTN AGREEMENT WAS REACHED NOW SEEM TO HAVE REVERTED TO ORIGINAL POSITION THAT NO CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE REQUIRED.

8. IN OUR VIEW, MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECT THEY WISH TO DISCUSS, HOWEVER, IS LIST OF PRODUCTS EXCLUDED UNDER MTNS. KUMAR MENTIONED TEXTILE SPECIFICALLY. HE SAID RECENT STUDY MOC HAD MADE SHOWED MAJORITY OF QRS AGAINST INDIAN PRODUCTS IN ALL DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WAS IN TEXTILES, ESPECIALLY IF JUTE INCLUDED. QRS AGAINST INDIAN PRODUCTS BY US ARE ALMOST ENTIRELY TEXTILES.

9. AS HE SAID AT RECENT TEXTILES TALKS, KUMAR AGAIN OBSERVED THAT MTNS WHICH EXCLUDED THE ONE PRODUCT THAT WAS FOR THEM THE MOST IMPORTANT IN TERMS OF TRADE RESTRAINT WAS NOT EQUITABLE.

10. IF STR HAS ANY TOPICS OTHER THAN THOSE MENTIONED ABOVE WHICH IT WOULD LIKE DISCUSSED DURING DENT VISIT, WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ABLE TO INFORM THE GOI AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
SAXBE

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